

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 IO-10 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SAB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4628

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, CS, PA

SUBJECT: OASGA PROCEDURES

REF: (A) STATE 64860 (B) STATE 64333

1. I CALLED ON FONMIN SAPENA PASTOR MARCH 26 TO INFORM HIM OF US SUPPORT FOR THE PANAMANIAN AND COSTA RICAN INITIATIVES TO DISPENSE WITH THE INITIAL SPEECHES OF EACH FOREIGN MINISTER. AT THE SAME TIME I ASKED FOR SAPENA'S REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL.

2. SAPENA SAID THAT HE HAD NOT AS YET RECEIVED FACIO'S LETTER. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE ABSENCE OF A PARAGUAYAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN COSTA RICA BUT HE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE THE LETTER SOONER OR LATER.

3. AFTER I READ HIM FACIO'S LETTER, HE SAID THAT HE AGREED FULLY WITH THE IDEA AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THE PROPOSAL PROVIDED THAT ALL FOREIGN MINISTERS WITHOUT EXCEPTION RPT WITHOUT EXCEPTION FOLLOW THE RULE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS SUSPICIOUS OF SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES WHO MIGHT GIVE LIP SERVICE TO FACIO'S SUGGESTION BUT THEN UPON ARRIVAL PULL OUT A SPEECH AND PROCEED TO READ IT. SHOULD
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ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTER MAKE A PREPARED STATEMENT, SAPENA

SAID, HE WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW SUIT BECAUSE OTHERWISE HE
WOULD BE ATTACKED AT HOME FOR NOT DOING HIS JOB AND NOT
PROTECTING HIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS PROPERLY.

4. COMMENT: AS DEAN OF THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN
MINISTERS SAPENA KNOWS HIS COLLEAGUES WELL AND I HOPE
THE OAS SECRETARIAT CAN DEVISE A FOOLPROOF METHOD
WHEREBY FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE KEPT FROM RATTLING
OFF SET SPEECHES AS OPENING STATEMENTS AND THEREBY
CAUSING A CHAIN REACTION.
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